Azar Gasimzada — Politician, PhD in Geological and Mineralogical Sciences, Associate Professor

English Translation of Pages 432–440
from the Encyclopedia of the National Liberation Movement of Azerbaijan
Original Azerbaijani edition by Nesiman Yaqublu
Published by Qanun Publishing House, Baku, 2018
ISBN: 978-9952-36-521-4

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Baku, 2025

Note: This translation maintains the structure and terminology of the original Azerbaijani text. Names, titles, and stylistic features have been preserved for historical and academic accuracy.

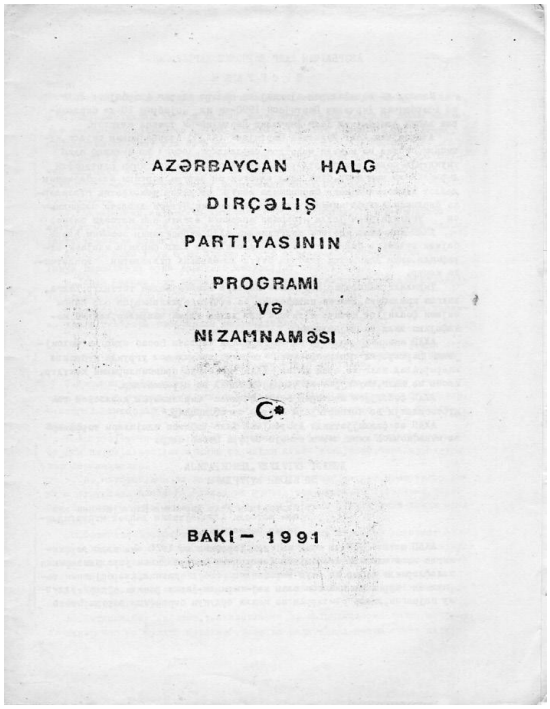
1988–1992: Founder of the First Political Party in Azerbaijan – Azar Gasimzada

During the years 1988 to 1992, during the period of Azerbaijan's national liberation struggle, one of the intellectuals who played an important role in the political development of society and who regarded the people's possession of political consciousness as essential was Azar Gasimzada. Azar Gasimzada's name was also recorded in the history of this period as the person who founded the first political party.

The Azerbaijan Revival Party

The Azerbaijan Revival Party (Azərbaycan Dirçəliş Partiyası), which he established in March 1989, was the first step taken in this field.

Tərəqqi (Progress) Society and the Founding of the Azerbaijan Revival Party The Azerbaijan Revival Party was established on the basis of Tərəqqi (Progress) Society, which had existed since the summer of 1988 but saw its activities weaken following the events of November that year. After the protest rally was dispersed on December 5, 1988, one of the leaders of Tərəqqi Society, Fuad Aghayev, was arrested, and Azar Gasimzada was subjected to persecution. The Tərəqqi Society suspended its operations.



The Party's Program

In protest against the repressions, Azar Gasimzada left the ranks of the Communist Party and submitted his party membership card to Moscow. In March 1989, together with several like-minded colleagues, he founded the Azerbaijan Revival Party.

On May 27, 1989, the first free newspaper in Northern Azerbaijan, Dirçəliş (Revival), was published as a samizdat edition. The second issue of Dirçəliş, published on June 27, 1989, included the following statement about the party's activities:

"One month ago, on May 27, 1989, *Dirçəliş* newspaper announced to the entire world that the first democratic party in Northern Azerbaijan in the past 69 years, the Azerbaijan Revival Party, had been founded and had begun its activities. The birth of a free press and a new political party was received by the Azerbaijani people with joy and with a renewed sense of belief in the struggle."

Appeal of the Azerbaijan Revival Party to the People

The workers and miners of Kuzbass, Vorkuta, Eastern Ukraine, and other provinces of the empire have put forward the initiative to hold a one-day all-empire strike on July 11. The demands are political in nature and consist of the following:

- The development and reform of the USSR government
- The re-election of the People's Deputies of the USSR
- The depoliticization of the KGB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary, the army, and the public education system
- The nationalization of property belonging to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- The dissolution of certain ministries

Azar Gasimzada (third from the left)

In addition to these demands, locally significant demands have also been raised. For instance, the miners of Ukraine are demanding that the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR adopt a resolution on economic, political, and legal sovereignty. Other republics are calling for the signing of new economic and political agreements. The fate of the Azerbaijani people depends on

whether or not it joins this political strike. Our demands must also include the following:

- The abolition of the state of emergency and the curfew in Baku
- The rescheduling of elections to November and December
- A revision of the Election Law following a nationwide referendum
- Freedom for political prisoners
- The establishment of a National Army
- The full restoration of freedom of speech and of the press
- The official registration of all political parties

The strike will play only a positive role in the Azerbaijani National Liberation Movement. After the strike, in response to the anticipated backlash, all democratic forces of the empire will rise in defense of the Azerbaijani democratic movement. This will exert pressure on the puppet government of Northern Azerbaijan. The question of holding the strike on July 11 must be resolved in the affirmative.

Azar Gasimzada (center) promoting the Azerbaijani tricolor flag among schoolchildren in Dagestan

Sourse:

Dirçəliş newspaper, 10 July 1990, No. 6 (13)

Dirçəliş Newspaper

Dirçəliş newspaper was the first samizdat publication in Azerbaijan. It served as the organ of the Azerbaijan Revival Party. In 1989, under the slogan “We must rise again! Enough of this

humiliation and darkness!", it was first printed at Dönüş (Return) Printing House and later at Dirçəliş Publishing House. The editor-in-chief was Odar Khazar (Azar Gasimzada).

Dirçəliş

№1(1) шәнбә, 27 мая 1989-чу ил

Dirçəliş newspaper

The newspaper published documents and appeals of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), reports on current events in the country and the world, as well as articles related to Azerbaijani history. Selections from the works of M. A. Rasulzada were also featured, along with articles from the international press concerning the policy of perestroika, and reflections on democracy. Political cartoons and satirical illustrations of a political nature were also published in the newspaper.

Soy (Lineage) Journal

Soy journal was published as the official organ of the Azerbaijan Revival Party. Its first issue was printed in December 1989 at Dirçəliş Publishing House in 3,000 copies. The editor was Odar Khazar (Gasimzada A. A.).

In the first issue of Soy, a brief message from the editor was addressed to the readers. An excerpt from that message reads:

"Dear compatriots, esteemed readers,

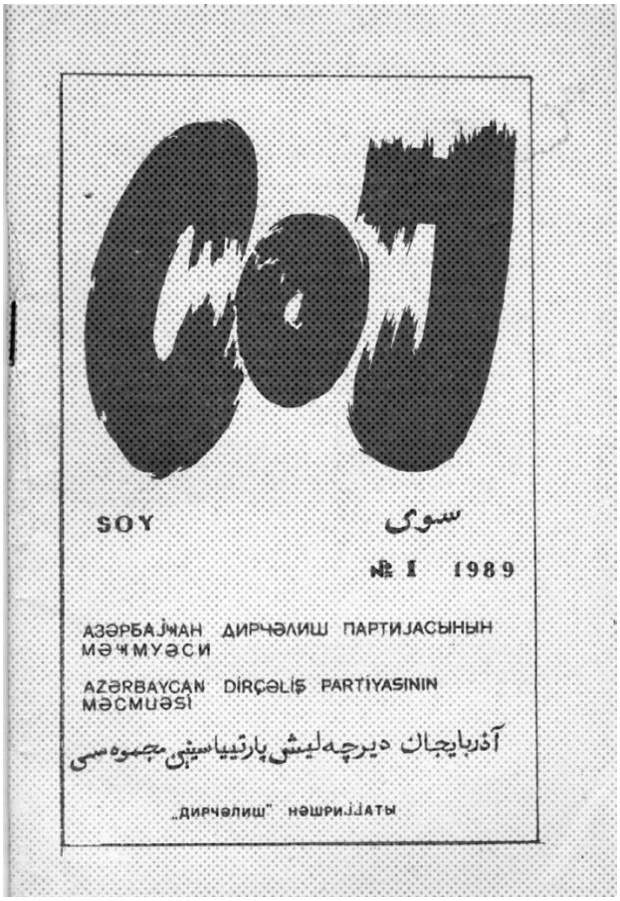
For centuries, the history of Azerbaijan, the history of its people, and in particular the Azerbaijani Turks as its driving force, along with their culture and science, have not been studied fairly. Instead, these have been distorted with prejudice. A nation with a history stretching back tens of millennia has been slandered as savage and uncultured. Those among our people who rise up against such defamation and attempt to present our history truthfully are branded as pan-Islamist, Turanist or pan-Turkist. As a result, they are persecuted or destroyed. The Azerbaijan Revival Party now presents this new journal, Soy, as a source of knowledge about our history and

our roots. We invite intellectuals to contribute to its pages.
Respectfully, Odar Khazar (Gasimzada A. A.), December 1989."

The journal was 41 pages long. The first issue included the following articles:

1. An Open Letter to Those Who Attack Our History (Mahar Ajarlı)
2. The "Threat" of Pan-Islamism (Gigil)
3. The Tragedy of Azerbaijan (author not listed)
4. Pan-Turanism and the Caucasus Problem (M. A. Rasulzada)

On the cover, the title Soy appeared in Cyrillic script. The same word was also printed in lowercase Latin and Arabic scripts. Below it, the phrase A journal of the Azerbaijan Revival Party was included in all three scripts. The title and related information were printed in red ink.



Soy Journal

Source:
Soy journal, Dirçəliş Publishing House, 1989, Issue No. 1

Gülüstan Political-Literary Anthology

The first issue of the *Gülüstan* political-literary anthology was published in 1990 by Dirçəliş Publishing House. On the cover, just above the title Gülüstan, the following poetic lines were printed:
"Enough of the ashes falling on our heads from the fires of separation. Rise to your feet. Either be free, or burn completely, Azerbaijan!"

The anthology was printed in 3,000 copies. Its content was divided into two sections: a political section and a literary section. The following articles appeared in the first issue:

Political section:

1. Communism is a Human Catastrophe (Q. Arif)
2. While Reading Lenin (V. Solokhin)
3. Leninism in the Light of Universal Morality (I. Orlov – Rimini)
4. Three Questions to the Editorial Board of Sovetskaya Molodyozh (A. Serebrennikov)
5. What the World's Greatest Realist and Socialist Said about Perestroika and Glasnost (Q. Arif)

Literary section:

1. The Social Triangle (O. Henry)
2. Behind the Iron Door
3. Bird Rock (Q. Arif)

Most articles in the political section were signed by "Q. Arif." Although the exact identity behind this pseudonym is unclear, the writing style strongly suggests that they were authored by Azar Gasimzada. It was common in samizdat publications to use pseudonyms. It should be noted that no information is available regarding subsequent issues of the ***Soy*** journal and the ***Gülüstan*** political-literary anthology.

Source:

Gülüstan *anthology, Dirçəliş Publishing House, 1990*

Dönüş **journal**

The *Dönüş* journal was published as the official organ of the Azerbaijan Revival Party by Dirçəliş Publishing House. The editor was Odar Khazar (Azar Gasimzada).

The journal gave preference to texts based on historical truth. It also published documents related to the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Among the published works were a co-authored article by Yunus Oghuz and Adila Surkhayzade titled *A Historical Analysis of Armenia's*

Aggression Against Azerbaijan in 1988–1989, and an article about the political struggle of Siyamak, a victim of political repression, authored under the pen name “Ildırım.”

The journal also featured an abridged version of *Pages from the Diary* by Khalil Rza.

Source:

Dönüş *journal, Dirçəliş Publishing House, 1989, Issue No. 1*

A Publication of Dirçəliş Publishing House

Ahmad Karaja: *A Brief Overview of Azerbaijan’s Recent History*

In 1989, Dirçəliş Publishing House (a name used symbolically at the time) published *A Brief Overview of Azerbaijan’s Recent History* by Ahmad Karaja, under the editorial direction of Azar Gasimzada. The author had previously taken part in the Azerbaijani national movement while in Türkiye.

The 27-page book was published in an abridged format. The foreword included the following observation:

“This work sheds light on the recent history of the Azerbaijani Turks, a branch of the Oghuz Turks, who inhabit a territory of 250,000 square kilometers that forms an extension of the Anatolian Peninsula.”

At the time, publishing and distributing such a politically sensitive book was regarded as a bold and consequential act. The book was printed in 10,000 copies at the Dönüş Printing House, affiliated with the Azerbaijan Revival Party.

Source:

Ahmad Karaja. A Brief Overview of Azerbaijan’s Recent History. *Dirçəliş Publishing House, 1989*

AZAR GASIMZADA

Azar Gasimzada was born in 1955 in Baku into a working-class family. He worked as a researcher at the Institute of Geology of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR and held the academic title of Candidate of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences.

After graduating from secondary school in Baku in 1972, he worked as a laborer at the Baku Tunnel Construction Department. In 1973, he was admitted to the part-time program of the Faculty

of Geology and Geography at Azerbaijan State University. Between 1975 and 1977, he completed his military service. Following that, he held a position at the Ministry of Rural Construction of Azerbaijan.

In 1981, he obtained a degree in engineering geology and joined the Institute of Geology of the Academy of Sciences. From 1984 to 1988, he pursued postgraduate studies part-time and successfully defended his dissertation in June 1989 in Dushanbe, earning the academic title of Candidate of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences. He authored numerous scientific works.

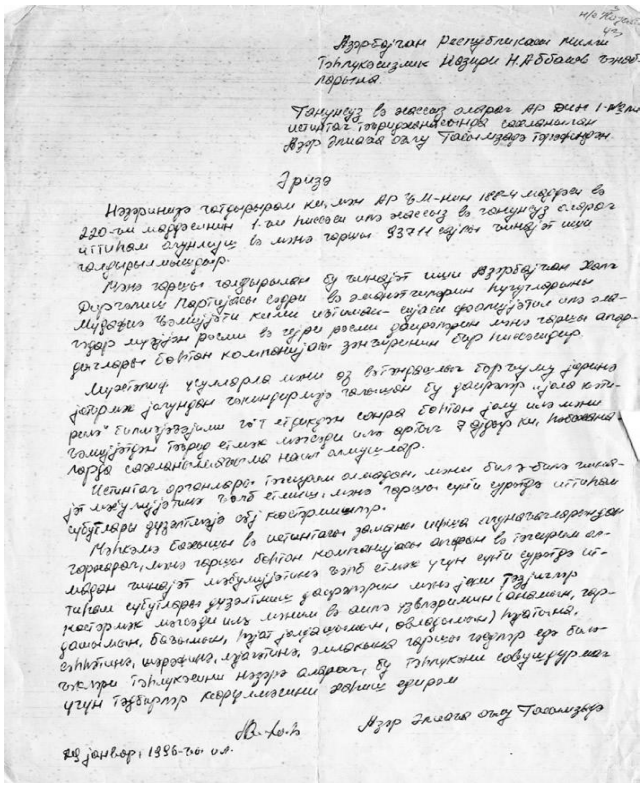
Azar Gasimzada was the principal founder of the Azerbaijan Revival Party. He served as the first editor of the newspaper *Dirçəliş*, launched on May 27, 1989. He also edited the first issues of the party's journals *Soy* and *Dönüş*, and co-edited the publication *Təcavüz*, dedicated to the January 20 tragedy in Baku, alongside Mahir Hamzayev.

Gasimzada was also among the founders of the Tərəqqi Society, established in 1988, together with Fuad Aghayev, Galib Rahimov, and Tofig Ahmadov. After the society ceased operations, Gasimzada and his close associates laid the foundation for the first political party in modern Azerbaijani history and began publishing *Dirçəliş*, the country's first samizdat newspaper.

Following the January 1990 tragedy, in an effort to expose the brutality of the Soviet regime and its crimes in Azerbaijan, Gasimzada – alongside members of the Social-Democratic, Republican, and National Musavat parties – participated in meetings, demonstrations, and media engagements across the Baltic states, Ukraine, Saint Petersburg, Moscow, and other regions. Their primary objective was to break the information blockade surrounding Azerbaijan.

Due to his leadership in these efforts, the Azerbaijan Revival Party published *Təcavüz* in 10,000 copies. It was approved for publication on January 25, 1990. Azerbaijani diaspora communities in Ukraine and Lithuania provided financial support for its printing. The publication caused considerable concern within the KGB in Moscow.

From October 1990 onward, political parties intensified diplomatic outreach. Under Gasimzadа's leadership, the Azerbaijan Revival Party – later cooperating with the Unity and National Democratic parties – established direct political ties with organizations in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Central Asia, and Kazakhstan. In April 1991, the Assembly of Turkic Peoples was convened in Kazan, where Gasimzada was among the participants. His diplomatic network extended well beyond Türkiye, distinguishing him from many of his contemporaries.



Азәрбајҹан Республикасы Милли Тәһлүкәсизлик Назири Н.Аббасова өнвандан

Тәнгиднә вә әсасән әлавә АР ЈМ-нин 1994-чү ил 1 мајда гәбул едилмиш "Мәһкумларын вә мүһакимә алтында олан шәхсләрин сахланылмасы Гајдалары" нын 220-чи маддәсинин 1-ҹи һиссәси илә әсасән вә Азәрбајҹан Республикасынын Ҹинајәт Мәчәлләсинин 93-ҹү маддәсинин 1-ҹи һиссәсинә әсасән мән Азәрбајҹан Халг Фронтунун Партијасы сәдри вә әлиһинә кечирилән кәтләви мүһакимә чәлбедиҹи кими иштиракы- ҹүзи фәалијјәтим илә әлагәдар мүһакимә рәиси вә үзви һејәти тәрәфиндән мәнә гаршы апарылмыш Бөјүк Британ компанијасы ҹәнабларынын сөз нөвбәсиндә.

Мүгәссир шүмарлы мәни өз вәтәндашлыг борчумуз һесаб едәрәк ҹәмијјәтимизә тәлгинләрә гаршы дәфәлә-ҹә-ләрә" етираз едилмәсиндән сонра бөјүк ҹәсарәтлә ҹинајәтин тәрәф еҝмәк истәдиҝи илә әлагәдар 2 дәфә гејд етмишдир ки, тәгсирләрә сәһвән вә ја гәсдән нәзәр алмышлар.

Ҹәлбедиҹи органлары тәгсирли һесаб едән, мәни бүтүн ҹинајәт әмәлләрини вә ја ҹәмијјәтә гаршы чыхышларымы субјективи гијмәтләндирмишләр.

Мәһкәмә бәјанаты вә иҹтимаи зәнни инкар едәрәк, мүдафиәчиләримиз тәрәфиндән апарылан вә тәгсирләндирән сүбутлары дағытмаға ҹәһд ҝөстәрмишләр.

Мәһкәмә бәјанаты вә иҹтимаи зәнни инкар едәрәк, мәни тәгсирә бөјүк компанијадан апарылан вә тәгсирләндирән сүбутларын

This document has been translated and formatted by Nargiz Gasimzada, based on the original Azerbaijani text authored by ***Nasiman Yagublu****, published in the* Encyclopedia of the National Liberation Movement of Azerbaijan *(ISBN 978-9952-36-521-4).*
Baku, 2025